

Appl. No. 09/730,873
Amdt. Dated May 17, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 23, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P11907-US1
EUS/JIP/04-3115

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendments

The Applicants have amended claim 1. Claims 5 and 16-18 have been canceled and the allowable limitations of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5-6 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been canceled and the allowable limitations of claim 5 have been incorporated with the limitations of independent claim 1. The Applicants submit that claims 2-4 and 6-15, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, contain the same novel limitations. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments have placed the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4 and 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,282,702 issued to Ungar. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims. Claims 16-18 have been canceled rendering moot the rejection of these claims.

Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, the allowable limitations of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 6-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and contain the same allowable limitations. In view of the fact that claim 1 contains allowable limitations and claims 2-4 and 6-15 depend from claim 1, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 6-15 are now allowable over Ungar.

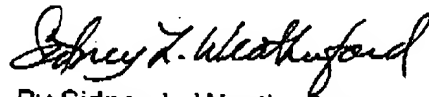
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-4 and 6-16.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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